

.....



For more info contact:
LT Ben Benson
(619) 683-6499
(619) 683-6470

U.S. Coast Guard
Marine Safety Office San Diego
2716 N. Harbor Drive
San Diego, CA 92101

u.s. coast guard news

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 Dec 01
Release # MSO-17-01

Coast Guard runs ship interception drill U.S. Navy plays key roll

SAN DIEGO – The U.S. Coast Guard and Navy today tested the process for intercepting a “rogue ship” trying to enter San Diego Bay. The drill significantly improves the protection of the port.

At 8 a.m. this morning two Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteer vessels tested the port security system by posing as hostile vessels heading for San Diego Bay. The Navy identified and tracked the vessels as they approached the bay. The 110-foot Coast Guard Cutter Long Island then intercepted each vessel, boarding one and simulating the use of force to stop the other vessel.

Since September 11, the Coast Guard and Navy have improved the port security procedures to protect San Diego Bay from a “rogue ship” attack. This drill tested these improved procedures to ensure that the necessary level of force can be used in time to defend against a hijacked commercial vessel being used as a weapon against the port. Lessons learned from today’s drill will be applied to further improve port security.

The results of the drill and the details of the Navy’s involved units cannot be released for National Security reasons.

-end-